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New Orleans DA Is Confident He Can Prove a Kennedy Plot

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20 (AP) — District Attorney Jim Garrison said today he is quite confident he can prove there was a conspiracy behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. But he said arrests "are most certainly months away."

The District Attorney of Orleans Parish (County), appearing at a crowded news conference, reiterated that his investigation into the assassination has made progress. He began his inquiry last October.

Garrison said arrests of those he believes conspired to kill the late President "probably were just a few weeks away until the disclosures of the investigation by the local newspapers. Now they are most certainly months away."

Asked if he thought any foreign country or any official was involved in the assassination, Garrison said "no."

He said he expects to obtain convictions for conspiring to kill Kennedy and for being accessories after the fact — that is, "having substantial knowledge . . . and withholding information."

Emphasizing his displeasure with the two New Orleans newspapers he banned their reporters from the news conference, held at a local motel.

Meanwhile, a man who says he was a private investigator when Lee Harvey Oswald lived here, says four or five persons were involved in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy and "some of them are still in New Orleans."

Dave Lewis, who now works at a bus station, reportedly is one of Garrison's witnesses.

In Washington, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) called for the Warren Commission to reopen its investigation of the assassination to determine if Oswald had Communist conspirators. The Commission, in its report, named Oswald as the slayer and said it found no evidence of a plot.

3-Year-Old Fire

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20 (AP) — Indian officials have announced that an underground coal mine fire which has been burning for 35 years at Jharia in eastern India has been brought under control. The government estimates the fire destroyed 4.5 million tons of coal through the year, while 700,000 tons of sand and water used in fighting the fire.